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(71) Applicant (for all designated States except AM, AT, AZ, BY, CA, DE, DK, FR, GB, HR, IT, JP, KG, KR, KZ, MD, NL, NO, NZ, PL, RO, RU, TJ, TM, UA, ZA): **SOFITECH N.V.** [BE/BE]; 140, rue de Stalle, B-1180 Brussels (BE).

(71) Applicant (for FR only): **SERVICES PETROLIERS SCHLUMBERGER** [FR/FR]; 42, rue Saint Dominique, F-75007 Paris (FR).

(71) Applicant (for CA only): **SCHLUMBERGER CANADA LIMITED** [CA/CA]; Eau Claire Place I, 525 - 3rd Avenue, SW, Calgary, Alberta T2P 0G4 (CA).

(71) Applicant (for AM, AT, AZ, BY, DE, DK, HR, IT, KG, KR, KZ, MD, NO, NZ, PL, RO, RU, TJ, TM, UA, ZA only): **SCHLUMBERGER TECHNOLOGY B.V.** [NL/NL]; Parkstraat 83-89, NL-2514 J The Hague (NL).

(71) Applicant (for GB, JP, NL only): **SCHLUMBERGER HOLDINGS LIMITED** [—/—]; P.O. Box 71, Craigmuir Chambers, Road Town, Tortola (VG).

(72) Inventors: **NELSON, Erik, B.**; 10610 Willowisp Drive, Houston, TX 77035 (US). **LUNGWITZ, Bernhard**; 10502 Fountain Lake Drive, No. 1237, Stafford, TX 77477 (US). **DISMUKE, Keith**; 2230 Long Cove Circle, Katy,

TX 77450 (US). **SAMUEL, Mathew**; Mukkuttumanni, Mathra P.O., Punalur, Kerala (IN). **HUGHES, Trevor, L.**; 5 St. Margaret's Square, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire CB1 4AP (GB). **PARRIS, Michael**; 36 East Kitty Hawk, Richmond, TX 77469 (US). **SALAMAT, Golchi**; 10498 Fountain Lake Drive, No. 125, Stafford, TX 77477 (US). **LEE, Jesse, C.**; 5519 Chesapeake Place, Sugar Land, TX 77479 (US). **FLETCHER, Philip**; 3000 Bissonnette Street, No. 6305, Houston, TX 77005 (US). **FU, Diankui**; 1819 Brightlake Way, Missouri City, TX 77459 (US). **HUTCHINS, Richard**; 17507 Sunny Trail Lane, Sugar Land, TX 77479 (US). **TUSTIN, Gary, J.**; 8 Carrick Close, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire CB1 8RQ (GB).

(74) Agents: **MENES, Catherine et al.**; Etudes et Productions Schlumberger, IP Department, 1, rue Becquerel, BP 202, F-92140 Clamart (FR).

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(54) Title: VISCOSITY REDUCTION OF VISCOELASTIC SURFACTANT BASED FLUIDS

(57) Abstract: Methods and compositions are disclosed for controlled addition of components that decrease the viscosity of the viscoelastic surfactant fluids or for controlled changes in the electrolyte concentration or composition of the viscoelastic surfactant fluids. One aspect of the invention relates to the use of internal breakers with a delayed activation. Another aspect of the invention relates to the use of precursors that release a breaking system such as alcohol by a process such as melting, slow dissolution, reaction with a compound present in the fluid or added to the fluid during or after the step of injecting, rupture of an encapsulating coating and de-adsorption of a breaking agent absorbed into solid particles. In another aspect of the invention, alcohols are included in a pad to reduce the low-shear viscosity and reduce the resistance to flow of the treatment fluids during a desired phase of the treatment.

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# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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## A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

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According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

## B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

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Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal

## C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

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Patent family members are listed in annex.

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Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2  
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk  
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,  
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Boulon, A

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